GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:29
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016
Generation Capacity of Atomic Power Plants Stations
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the generation capacity of atomic power plants has been optimized consequent to the satisfactory and sustained rate of fuel inputs and if so, the details thereof;

(b)how fruitful have been the efforts to explore and tap the potential for mining uranium within India;

(c)whether the target for various reactors and allied plants of the Atomic Energy Commission has been revised; and

(d)if so, the quantum of enhanced operational expenditure at these stations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)Based on the availability of fuel supply from both indigenous sources and imports, the nuclear power reactors are presently operating close to their rated capacity.

(b)Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is engaged in exploration and prospecting of uranium deposits across the country. Uranium resources have already been established in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Meghalaya. With the plans for achieving self sufficiency in uranium, exploration activities in these areas have also increased manifold.

Uranium resources established in Jharkhand are under development / production by Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL). Jharkhand accounts for about 85% of country's uranium production.

UCIL is setting up a new mine and plant at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh. The mineralisation in this area is in a complex host rock. A new technology has been indigenously developed to process this ore. The area has large mineral resource and actions have already been initiated to expand the operations around Tummalapalle.

(c)Yes, Sir. Annual generation targets of nuclear power reactors have been arrived at considering the fuel availability, planned maintenance shutdowns, refurbishment / Renovation and Modernization and new capacity additions etc. Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is responsible for fabrication of fuel bundles for indigenous nuclear power reactors. The targets of NFC have been revised based on the requirement of Nuclear Power Plants. Heavy Water Board (HWB), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) supplies Heavy Water required for the indigenous nuclear power reactors. The present Heavy Water production capacity is sufficient to meet the requirements of Nuclear Power Plants. Therefore, the production capacity has not been revised.

(d)In view of sustained and continuous operation for longer durations, there has been an increase in fuel & heavy water and Operation & Maintenance expenditure at Indian Nuclear Power Plants. The details are as follows:

Expenditure Item 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16

Fuel & Heavy Water 2631 2734 2868 2965

Operation & Maintenance 621 655 812 836

The quantum of additional production cost at NFC from 2013-14 to 2014-15 is
to the tune of around Rs.624 crore and that from 2014-15 to 2015-16 is about Rs.498 crore approximately.
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